

MINUTES
STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
March 21, 2019

The State Library Board met March 21, 2019 in the Boardroom of the State Library, 274 East First Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201.

CALL TO ORDER

The business meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Julia Ward, Executive Secretary to the State Librarian's Office, called the roll. State Library Board members present were: Ms. Laurie Gemmill Arp, President; Mr. Michael Merz; Dr. Tracy Najera; Mr. Alan Hall; and Ms. Beverly Cain, Secretary. Ms. Melissa Hendon Deters was present via telephone and did not vote.

Visitors present were: Dale Vitale, Ohio Attorney General's Office; Doug Evans, Ohio Library Council; Don Yarman, OPLIN; Debbie McDonald, Recorded Books; and Barb Hall.

State Library staff members present were: Julia Ward, Anne Libby, Dianna Clark, John Stewart, Tracy Grimm, Kirstin Krumsee, Elissa Lawrence, Cindy Boyden, Nicole Merriman, Jamie Pardee, Janet Ingraham Dwyer, and Ann Watson.

OATH OF OFFICE

Ms. Arp administered the oath of office to Mr. Hall. Mr. Hall was appointed to the unexpired term of Krista Taracuk, who resigned. He was appointed by the State Board of Education at its February meeting. His term ends December 31, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Merz moved (M-9-19) that the minutes of the January 17, 2019 Board meeting be approved.

Ms. Arp seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Arp, Mr. Merz, Dr. Najera, and Mr. Hall voting "aye."

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Doug Evans, Executive Director of Ohio Library Council (OLC), announced that he is retiring on June 28. He said that OLC is waiting for official legislation before sharing a budget update. Mr. Merz asked Ms. Cain how the State Library did in the governor's budget. Ms. Cain explained that the State Library was flat funded.

LSTA REPORT

Public Library Automation Grant

Cindy Boyden, LSTA Coordinator, presented the Board with a proposal from Leetonia Community Public Library for a Public Library Automation Grant. The library seeks to join the SEO Library Consortium. This is the eighth grant of its kind to come before the Board. Ms. Boyden explained that the program will be sunset at the end of July after two years. She anticipates one to two more libraries applying for the grant in that time. Ms. Arp asked if there would still be a need for libraries to automate after that. Ms. Boyden explained that the need was there, but not the interest. Ms. Cain said that there are about 50 public libraries running standalone systems in Ohio, most of which are small. Dr. Najera asked what the maintenance

cost is for libraries who automate. Dianna Clark, Director of SEO Library Center, said the cost is based on a library's operating revenue, and the smallest amount they charge is \$3,000.

Dr. Najera moved (M-10-19) that a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant in the amount of \$25,733 from FFY18 funds be awarded to Leetonia Community Public Library for a Library Automation Grant for the period of April 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019.

Mr. Merz seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Arp, Mr. Merz, Dr. Najera, and Mr. Hall voting "aye."

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Practicum Student Introduction

Ms. Cain introduced a Kent State University iSchool practicum student to the Board. Heather West is working on a number of initiatives with State Library staff. Ms. West works as a Youth Services Information Services Specialist at the Hilltop Branch of Columbus Metropolitan Library. Her professional interests include outreach, underserved communities, and user experience.

Ms. Cain gave the Board a brief update on the state budget as of the meeting. The governor released his budget on March 15. The State Library was flat funded in that budget even though OBM gave indications that an increase was likely. Ms. Cain will request an increase from the legislature, but it is easier to receive that increase if it is originally in the governor's budget. Ms. Cain will testify in front of the House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education on March 26. Rick Carfagna is the Chair of that subcommittee. David Weaver, Executive Director of Ohioana, will also testify. The Legislative Services Commission usually meets with the State Library but did not have time this year. They submitted questions that Ms. Cain must answer by March 22. Ms. Cain explained that at the federal level, the president has zeroed out the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) again in his budget. IMLS provides the State Library with about \$5 million in LSTA funds every year. The State Library will be working with the American Library Association (ALA) to contact the legislature on behalf of IMLS. Ms. Cain will keep the Board posted on the situation. Ms. Arp asked what the Board can do. Ms. Cain explained that they can contact legislators, and ALA has sample language to use.

Mr. Merz asked if there was any progress regarding the administrative hearing to decide the boundaries of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. Ms. Cain explained that the hearing is scheduled for April 29. The State Library has arranged for stenography services. Dale Vitale, Assistant Attorney General, further explained that the date was chosen by the hearing examiner and will carry over to April 30 if needed. Toledo Lucas County Public Library and Evergreen Community Library will make their cases to the hearing examiner and a recommendation will be made to the Board. Ms. Arp asked if a recommendation will be made by the next Board meeting. Mr. Vitale responded that it is up to the hearing examiner and how long he takes to write the recommendation, but it is unlikely. Mr. Merz said that the Board needs to weigh the recommendation and objections and make a final determination. Mr. Vitale explained the Board has the authority to go with the recommendation or against it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Vice-President

Ms. Cain explained to the Board that after Board President Krista Taracuk resigned, Vice-President of the Board Laurie Arp automatically ascended to the office of President. The Board then needed to elect a Vice-President.

Dr. Najera moved (M-11-19) that Michael Merz be nominated for the office of Vice-President of the State Library Board for the unexpired biennial term ending June 30, 2019.

Mr. Hall seconded the motion.

Dr. Najera moved (M-12-19) that the nominations be closed, a unanimous ballot be cast for Mr. Merz, and that he be declared elected to that office for the unexpired biennial term ending June 30, 2019.

Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Arp, Mr. Merz, Dr. Najera, and Mr. Hall voting "aye."

Pay Raise for State Librarian

Jamie Pardee, Head of Fiscal Services, presented the Board with a proposed raise for the State Librarian. She explained that parity of the raises given to bargaining unit staff is not automatic for the State Librarian, and the Board needed to approve it.

Mr. Merz moved (M-13-19) that in the E-1 salary tables in Ohio Revised Code 124.152 award State of Ohio E-1 employees a 2.75% salary increase effective with the first day of the pay period that includes July 1, 2019, and allows increases up to 2.75% for other exempt state employees, the State Library Board, in accordance with the duties assigned by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3375, approves adjusting the compensation of the State Librarian to reflect a 2.75% salary increase beginning with the pay period that includes July 1, 2019.

Dr. Najera seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Arp, Mr. Merz, Dr. Najera, and Mr. Hall voting "aye."

National Library Week and National Library Workers Day Resolution

Ms. Cain presented the Board with a resolution to proclaim National Library Week and National Library Workers Day.

Dr. Najera moved (M-14-19) for adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, libraries have historically served as our nation's great equalizers of knowledge by providing free access to all and libraries are part of the American dream, places for education, opportunity and lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, Ohio libraries provide a forum for diverse ideas and points of view that help us better understand each other and ourselves; and

WHEREAS, librarians are trained professionals, helping people of all ages and backgrounds find and interpret the information they need to live, learn and work in a challenging economy; and

WHEREAS, librarians design and offer programs to meet their community's economic needs, providing residents with resume writing classes, interviewing workshops and job seeking resources; and

WHEREAS, librarians and library support staff bring Ohioans a world of knowledge in person and online, as well as personal service and expert assistance in finding what is needed when it is needed; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's school, academic, public and special libraries make a difference in the lives of millions of Ohioans and provide excellent and invaluable service to library users regardless of age, ethnicity, or socioeconomic background; and

WHEREAS, Ohioans and Ohio libraries benefit from the resources, services, and support provided by the State Library of Ohio and the library's dedicated staff; and

WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, library workers and supporters across America are celebrating National Library Week and National Library Workers Day; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that on this day, March 21, 2019, the State Library Board proclaims National Library Week, April 7 – 13, 2019, and National Library Workers Day, April 9, 2019, and encourages all Ohio residents to visit their libraries or library websites this week to take advantage of the variety of library resources available and thank their librarians and library workers for their exceptional contributions to American life.

Mr. Merz seconded the motion. The motion passed with Ms. Arp, Mr. Merz, Mr. Hall, and Dr. Najera voting "aye."

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion, the Board adjourned by common consent at 10:36 a.m.

President

Secretary

BC/jmw